Missouri Library Association
Minutes
Board Meeting 9/28/2021 - 5:00 p.m.

Location:
DoubleTree by Hilton
16625 Swingley Ridge Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Conference Room F

Attendance
1. Claudia Cook
2. Cindy Thompson
3. Otter Bowman
4. Katie Hill Earnhart
5. Brent Sweaney
6. Amy Held
7. Diana Platt
8. Kim Moeller
9. Rachelle Brandel
10. Margaret Conroy
11. Jason Phinney
12. Shannon Midyett
13. Tracy Byerly
14. Stephanie Hallam
15. Linda Elkow
16. Allison Repking
17. Kristin Evans

1) Meeting called to order at 5:09 p.m. Cindy Thompson welcomed current and incoming Board members. Board members and attendees introduced themselves.

2) Consent agenda passed unanimously.

3) Discussion items

   a) Bylaws and Handbook – Bylaw Revision – Nominating and Election Timeline

   Stephanie Hallam, Bylaws and Handbook Committee, reported that proposed Bylaw revisions had been provided to the Board culminating from a joint meeting between the Bylaws and Handbook and Membership Committees. The committees recommend a revision to the Bylaws in regard to the timeframe for nominations and elections, as follows:
ARTICLE V. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominations:
The Nominating Committee shall present its slate of nominees to the Board for approval at least 30 days prior to the opening date for elections. Names of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be communicated to the membership \textit{two weeks} prior to the \textit{closing} date for elections.

Section 3. Elections:
a. By sending proposed changes to all members in good standing at the time of the ballot at least two weeks in advance of the annual or a special meeting. Approval must be by a majority vote of total ballots returned at the annual or special meeting.
b. By sending proposed changes and an \textit{electronic ballot} to all members in good standing. Approval must be by a majority vote of total \textit{electronic ballots} returned. The voting period shall be no less than two weeks.

Motion to approve Bylaw revisions as submitted by the Bylaws and Handbook Committee in their Board report dated September 28, 2021, which includes a revision to Article V Section 1 and Article V Section 3 made by Amy Held. Seconded by Claudia Cook. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Bylaws and Handbook – Bylaw Revision – Membership Types and Voting Rights

The Bylaws and Handbook and Membership Committees met to review the Bylaws and Handbook in regard to membership types and voting rights as outlined in Article I of the Bylaws. President Cindy Thompson explained that this review was intended to clarify and simplify the membership types in the Bylaws and to defer to the Handbook and MLA website as a way to clarify membership types in an attempt to minimize the amount of information in the Bylaws. Stephanie Hallam provided background for this review which included correcting incongruencies of membership types between the Bylaws and MLA website, clearing up ambiguity surrounding rights of the different membership types, and removing membership types that were no longer in existence or applicable. In addition, Hallam stated that concerns were voiced regarding the balance of voting rights amongst membership types, in particular the balance between for profit institutions and non profit libraries. Suggested revisions are intended to structure voting to ensure Missouri librarians are properly represented and that the voice of Missouri librarians are heard and decide the focus and direction of MLA.

Margaret Conroy expressed concern with the suggested revision to membership types as being unclear and exclusionary to membership and member engagement. Conroy clarified that, as ALA Chapter Councilor, she is required to file a report annually with ALA that provides the number of student, trustee, and institutional memberships. Removing these membership types could hinder her ability to file this report. In addition, Conroy
stated that lifetime MLA members were still active and that this membership type should remain in the Bylaws at this time.

With raised concerns and questions regarding this Bylaw revision, President Cindy Thompson tabled further discussion and the vote for a future meeting.

4) Action/Decision Items from Committees and SIGs

a) Approval of meeting dates for 2022

President-Elect Claudia Cook presented the following MLA Board meeting dates for 2022:

- January 28, 2022; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- April 15, 2022; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- July 15, 2022; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- September 27, 2022; 6:00-8:00 p.m. (in person at Conference)
- November 18, 2022: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The motion to accept the meeting dates for 2022 as presented made by Claudia Cook and seconded by Brent Sweaney. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Approval of member-at-large officers for 2022

President-Elect Claudia Cook announced the proposed slate of officers for 2022:

- Treasurer-Elect, Jason Phinney
- Secretary, Rachelle Brandel
- Membership Committee Chair, Kim Moeller

Motion made by Claudia Cook and seconded by Diana Platt to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Postpone Annual Business Meeting

President Cindy Thompson proposed postponing the annual business meeting to follow the November MLA Board meeting to be held virtually at 1:30 pm on Friday, November 19, 2021. Motion made by Shannon Midyett to postpone the 2021 annual business meeting and seconded by Amy Held. Motion passed unanimously.
5) Motion to adjourn made by Brent Sweaney. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.